

March 17, 2014

Re: Raised Bill No. 5326, "An Act Concerning Compassionate Aid in Dying for the Terminally Ill"

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before this committee.

I am Gloria Blick, age 92, and I live in Stamford. I have been very involved with Seniors for the past 15 years. I was on the search committee to find and create A SENIOR CENTER IN STAMFORD, and, in 2009, I was elected as the chairperson of the Center's Board of Directors for two terms.

I am fortunate to have had good health in my years, but I have watched AND SAT WITH MANY OF MY FRIENDS, RELATIVES AND BUDDIES as they went through terrible suffering before their death. My most recent experience is with my dear friend of 75 years who suddenly was diagnosed with a terminal illness, Lung Cancer. His time is very close, and he is suffering terribly, and the pain he feels is causing his family great torment and sadness. His family and I are feeling his torment and sadness. He has said to me "if only I could end it now". It is so sad to watch and see and hear him wish for death, but he DOESN'T HAVE ANY CHOICE.

If I were diagnosed with a terminal illness, I would hope today that you would grant me the legal and moral right to choose how long I wanted to suffer and cause my family to suffer with me. 5326 would give me and others one more option when faced with a terminal illness. I am a very religious woman and very active with my temple and my Rabbi. But this issue of Aid in Dying is NOT a religious issue for me or many more like me. I completely respect the rights and views of those with religious and other objections to this bill, but, if you vote to pass this bill, they too can have one more choice, that is the option **NOT** to choose Aid in Dying when they are terminally ill.

Having reached the age of 92 and having watched many suffer undignified, prolonged, agonizing deaths from terminal illnesses has compelled me to come before this Committee and appeal for your consideration for the passage of Bill 5326. Please, try to place yourselves in the bodies and minds of these individuals and vote to give Terminally Ill, Mentally Competent patients their right to Freedom of Choice, freedom to choose Aid in Dying, if that choice is right for them.

Thank you.



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